

India

# History of Our India Mission Field

By Rev. Z. F. Griffin.

The Rev. Amos Sutton was a missionary of the General Baptist Missionary Society of England, located at Cuttack, in the southern part of Orissa, India. Learning that the Free Will Baptists of America had accepted the same interpretation of the Bible with reference to a full and free salvation, open communion and free will, he came to America to interest us in a work beyond the confines of our own country. I have heard the story from the lips of those who heard him plead for India and I am sure no one who heard him can ever forget his burning words. Our people were aroused and only wanted an opportunity to give expression to their deep interest.

The Free Will Baptist Foreign Missionary Society was, accordingly, organized, and incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Maine on June 23, 1833, and a little over two years later, viz: Sept. 22, 1835, Rev. Jeremiah Phillips and wife and Rev. Eli Noyes and wife sailed from Boston.

Upon their arrival they went to Cuttack and spent some months with the missionaries of the General Baptists at Cuttack and elsewhere

studying the language and were then sent to Sumbalpoore. If you have a map of our mission field and will locate Cuttack you will see that on the Mohanudice river 250 miles to the westward is Sumbalpoore.

At Sumbalpoore Dr. Noyes' daughter died, and both Dr. and Mrs. Noyes were stricken down with fever and were obliged to return to Cuttack. Mrs. Phillips also had the fever and died. Her husband with his own hands prepared her body for burial, and buried her. Very soon after, jungle fever seized him.

His work was begun. One of his first orphan boys was Silas Curtis, who afterward became one of my preachers, and told me this story. When he saw that Mr. Phillips was really ill, he took a strip of palm leaf such as is often used in India to write upon, and with the sharp point of a nail or iron pen he wrote this note and addressed it to the missionaries at Cuttack: "Mamma Phillips is dead. Papa Phillips is very ill and unless you come quickly and get him he will die also." This bit of palm was passed from one mail carrier to another and the last one took it to the missionaries in Cuttack, and as soon as possible he was brought down and his life saved. It was then thought best not to try Sumbalpoore again for the present, but rather go to Balasore where our distinctive work began in February, 1838. It was my privilege to be located in Balasore when the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of work there was celebrated. Comparing the work of 1888 with that of fifty years before

we could all say, "What hath God wrought!"

It may be a digression from the natural order, but I must give you a bit of the most recent history concerning Sumbalpoore. Just before leaving India in June, 1909, I had occasion to go to Cuttack, and while there I saw Mr. Wilkins, who is a member of the Baptist Mission in that place. "Oh!" he said, "I must tell you the news from Sumbalpoore. During the past two Sundays nearly 500 people have been baptized, and it seems as if the work was just commencing."

It seemed best to divide the force, so Dr. and Mrs. Noyes remained in Balasore and Mr. Phillips and family went to Jellasore March 1840.

The same autumn Dr. O. R. Bacheler and wife and Miss Hannah W. Cummings, who afterward became Mrs. Phillips, arrived. The following year Dr. and Mrs. Noyes were compelled to return to America on account of health, and in 1844 Rev. and Mrs. Dow arrived.

Mr. Dow was a man of culture, piety and devotion, and soon entered heartily into the work. The weight of a million of degraded heathen resting upon the soul of one man, together with the debilitating climate, was enough to crush the strongest and in four years he was obliged to return to America, broken in health, and he never returned.

The same year that Bro. Dow retired Rev. Ruel Cooley and wife went out and for twelve years they remained, doing a splendid work. but they never returned. Our earlier missionaries made the mistake of taking too little

rercreation. Pressing work and open doors made them forget the needs of the body, but their minds and bodies had needs which should not have been so neglected.

Father Phillips buried his first and second wife in India, and after nineteen years' continuous service sent the wife who survived him home, with eight children, while he stood at his post, but the next year he had to follow, broken in health.

In 1846 Dr. Bacheler with a pony, a native preacher, a few coolies to carry his little tent, 6x6 feet, made a most memorable trip. He started from Jellasure westward, penetrating the jungles and went as far as Sumbalpore, preaching the gospel wherever he went. No history of a Mission would be complete without writing of the native helpers. Indeed after a time they will be the makers of missionary history. Rama, who went with Dr. Bacheler on this trip, was as brave, devoted, and eloquent a preacher as Dr. Bacheler himself. He returned via Cuttack and Puri, making a journey of nearly 1,000 miles. For a full account of this trip read his biography. The journey was all the more trying as he had but a little while before buried his beloved wife.

This same year Miss Sarah Merrill arrived in India, and in the following year she became Mrs. Bacheler (1847). For 53 years they toiled and suffered together. They were not always together in body for the circumstances of the Mission made it necessary for them sometimes to have half of the circumference of

the globe between them, but always together in heart and purpose.

It was in the year 1841 that Dr. Bachelier and "Father" Phillips first visited the Santal country, and five years later "Father" Phillips had sufficiently mastered the Santal language that he gave the people a primer of twelve pages, containing among other things, the Ten Commandments. This was the beginning of their written language.

In the year 1849 thirty Kand children had been rescued by the government from being offered as living sacrifices to the god of earth, and were given to our mission at Balasore. Some of them are still living and a large number of their children are today in our Mission.

In 1851 Miss Lavina Crawford landed in Calcutta. She died two years before my arrival, but my work during the years I was in India brought me so closely in touch with her work that I feel as if I knew her as a personal friend. A large number of the older Christian women workers in our Mission are from Miss Crawford's girls. I have often stood in silent thought by her grave in Jellahore and wondered what eternity would reveal of her life's influence.

December 1, 1852, Rev. Burleigh W. Smith arrived in Calcutta. Mr. Smith had a great desire to see the rapid growing Christian community develop along industrial lines, and I suppose that "in proportion to our number," no man has equaled him in this respect. He died in India and his grave is by the church



in Balasore. Mrs. Dorcas Smith, his wife, was a woman of rare ability and the mantle of Miss Crawford fell on her. I came to greatly appreciate her quiet, sagacious, determined method of pursuing her policy. The splendid property known as the "Sinclair Orphanage" is one result of her prudent forethought. Her remains are in the Calcutta cemetery.

In 1857 Rev. and Mrs. Hallam arrived in India. It is safe to say that no foreigner in our Mission ever mastered the Oriya language as did Bro. Hallam. In those days more than now the great work of the missionary was preaching directly to the people in the markets bazars and villages. None could hold the attention of the people better than he as in pure idiomatic Oriya he preached Christ.

In this brief history it is impossible for me to speak of those who returned to America from time to time. December 11, 1859, marked the arrival of Rev. Arthur Miller and wife, the latter being a sister of Dr. Hallam.

In 1863 the first church was organized in Midnapore, with but three members, Dr. Bachelor being one of them. The press brought with him from America was set up and began a splendid work.

In the same year Bro. Hallam returned to America, and on the voyage his wife died, leaving him to care for a babe twelve days old, and this on a slow-going sailing vessel.

June 22, 1865, Jeremiah Phillips and wife and Dr. J. L. Phillips landed in Calcutta. Dr. J. L. and wife, and Miss Julia, remained in Mid-

napore, while "Father" Phillips took up the work at Santipore and Jellasore. In 1864-'65 Dr. Bacheler really crystalized the work among the Santals, getting grants from the government and from the indigo planters, and organizing his teachers' convention. This is practically the same work which was taken up by Dr. J. L. Phillips and Rev. T. W. Burkholder, and now directed by Dr. A. L. Kennan.

In 1866 was the great Orissa famine and our missionaries were given a full share of the burden in feeding these suffering thousands. Many, many times I have heard from "Grandma" Phillips some of the terrible details of this famine. From overwork and exposure in feeding these multitudes Bro. Miller lost his life, and the famine left its influence upon all who saw the people dying by hundreds from sheer hunger.

It was also during this year that Miss Julia Phillips (afterwards Mrs. Burkholder) began zenana work in Midnapore.

In 1867 the church was organized in Santipore, and the first chapel was built in Bhimpore in 1872. In 1873 Rev. A. J. Marshall and wife and Miss Libbie Cilley, accompanied by Dr. Bacheler and wife, arrived in India.

Rev. A. J. Marshall and wife went to Bala-sore where Mrs. Dorcas Smith had been bravely carrying the burdens alone since the death of her husband the year previous. At Jellasore was Miss Crawford with her 200 orphan girls, at Santipore "Father" Phillips and wife, who also had oversight of matters at Jellasore.

In Midnapore were Dr. J. L. Phillips and wife, Dr. O. R. Bacheler and wife, Miss Julia Phillips, and Libbie Cilley.

In the following year Dr. J. L. Phillips and wife, and Julia Phillips, went to Bhimpore, in the heart on the Santal country, to give their entire time to the Santal work. Their first house was simply a mud-walled, thatched-roof house, such as the natives use. The Training School which had been started in Midnapore by Dr. Bacheler was removed to Bhimpore.

In May, 1874, Rev. R. D. Frost, R. M. Lawrence and Miss E. French joined the Mission in Midnapore. With them was Susan R. Libby, the first missionary of the Woman's Board. Miss Cilley took up the zenana work in Midnapore and about the same time Mrs. Smith began zenana work in Balasore. The Smiths had previously begun Christian work in Bhadrack, and through the kind influence of Mr. Beams, a Christian magistrate of Balasore, they had settled a company of grown-up orphans on a piece of land and named the place "Beamsai."

In 1875 Dr. J. L. Phillips and his wife and sister Julia returned to America for rest, and the year following Miss Cilley and Miss French returned. Two years later Mrs. Smith returned to America, leaving on the field but four men and four women. Later, in the same year, however, Miss Ida Phillips was sent out by the Woman's Board.

It was during this period of "rest" that Dr. Phillips raised \$25,000 for the endowment of a



Bible school in India. For some years there had been Bible Training in the different stations by different missionaries, as they had time or inclination, but upon Dr. Phillips' return (1878) the school was organized and students for Christian work from the various stations were sent to Mindapore to attend this school. At this time also came Miss Harriet Phillips (Mrs. Stone), Rev. T. W. Burkholder, Miss Frankie Millard and Miss Jessie Hooper. During the following year Miss Julia Phillips became Mrs. Burkholder, and they took up the Santal work at Bhimpore and Mrs. Mary Phillips (wife of Dr. J. L. Phillips) began what is known as "Ragged school" in Midnapore.

In 1879 Rev. Milo J. Coldren joined the Mission.

Frankie Millard went out as the fiancée of Richard Lawrence, and soon after her arrival they were married.

In 1881 Mrs. Lawrence died after a short illness of malarial fever, and her husband, who had made a splendid success with the Mission press, broken in heart and health, returned to America. In the same autumn "Grandma" Phillips returned to India, accompanied by her daughter Nellie (Dr. Nellie).

In 1882 Miss Lavina Crawford died in Jellapore. No one knew of her severe illness until it was too late to do anything for her. It seems almost heartless in speaking of these heroes and heroines to simply say that they "died" at such a time. One wants to pronounce a eulogy on each and all of them, but

space is not at my disposal.

Miss Harriet Phillips was transferred to Jellasure to take the work of the orphanage, and Miss Miller, now Mrs. Jewson, took the zenana work in Midnapore. This year also Miss Lavina Coombs joined the workers in Midnapore, and Emma Smith, who was the fiancée of M. J. Coldren, joined him in Balasore. In 1883 Dr. O. R. Bachelier and wife and Rev. A. J. Marshall and wife returned to America and Rev. Z. F. Griffin and wife arrived in India.

In the meantime Mrs. Smith had returned to India. Mrs. H. P. Phillips gave over the charge of the orphanage in Jellasure to Mrs. Smith, while she took up the zenana work in Balasore. In addition to this she did a very important work with the Christian mothers and Christian children. In 1884 Rev. F. D. George and wife arrived in Midnapore, and in the beginning of the year following the Griffins were transferred to Balasore. Almost immediately after their arrival the Boys' Orphanage was made over to them, which had been in the care of Miss Ida Phillips, and within three months Mr. Coldren made over all the work of Santipore, Jellasure, Metrapore, and Balasore, which had been in his hands, while he went to Chandball to begin the work there of opening the new station. The year 1886 saw the largest number of missionaries in the field that had ever been there at one time.

It was in this year that Dr. H. M. Bachelier and wife, Miss Ella Butts, and Rev. A. B. Boy-

er and wife joined the Mission. The latter were supported by the New Brunswick people. This year also the Girls' Orphanage was brought from Jellasore to Balasore because of the better health conditions in Balasore.

In 1887 Miss Ida Phillips returned to America, where, in the following year, she died. Her death was a great grief to many in India for she had a warm place in the hearts not only of the missionaries but the native people as well. In the very beginning of 1888 the Georges returned to America on account of the illness of Mrs. George. In the same year Rev. E. B. Stiles and wife arrived in Midnapore, and Rev. F. W. Brown in Chandbali, and Dr. H. M. Bacheler and wife were transferred to Jellasore. George Ager and wife were added as missionaries the following year, and in 1890 Rev. M. C. Miner and wife arrived and were stationed in Midnapore.

Dr. Mary Bacheler came to India as a girl with her parents in 1873, but she came as a medical missionary in 1890, and is today maintaining the work her illustrious father organized.

November 26, 1890, Dr. Harry M. Bacheler died. He came from Jellasore to Balasore, arriving at our house late in the afternoon, and at two next morning he was dead, and just as the sun was setting behind the Nelgire Hills we laid him away, even before his wife could know of his death. He had a kind and tender heart and spared no pains in the line of his profession for the poorest of the

dear suffering ones.

In June, 1891, we laid to rest in the native cemetery Rev. A. B. Boyer. He was a man of great promise. Scholarly, consecrated to the service of Christ and with a big and tender heart.

This year Mrs. Rae joined us, a most valuable worker, and her husband joined the work in 1888. Bro. Hallam was our first missionary resident in Contai, going there in 1892. The following year Miss Scott joined the Mission.

In 1893 Dr. Bacheler and wife, the Griffins, and Dr. Nellie returned to America.

In 1895 Bebe Phillips, daughter of Dr. J. L. Phillips, returned to India, but after two years married Dr. George Howells, of the English Baptist Mission.

The building of the Bengal & Nagpore Railway, connecting Calcutta with Bombay and Madras, the junction being at Kharagpore, a few miles south of Midnapore, where the workshops are located, soon made this place an important one. Mr. Rae, Rev. H. E. Wyman and Miss Coombs were the pioneers in seizing this opportunity. A little later Mr. and Mrs. Oxreider went out especially for this work. After much delay a lot was secured for the church and parsonage in 1905. A friend gave \$3,000 for the erection of a parsonage, and Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Stone, of Battle Creek, Mich., gave \$6,500 for the erection of the church. The buildings are good; the locations all that could be desired and the work fills a need for evangelism among the English

people and English speaking people of the city. A rapidly increasing work is also being done for the natives in another part of the city.

1894 seems to have been the year of flood tide in mission interest, for in this year the Wymans, the Hamdens, Edna C. Wile, Emily Barnes, and Miss L. E. Gaunce went out. The Loughers went in 1898, Dr. and Mrs. Kennan in 1899, the Murphys and Dr. Shirley Smith in 1900, the Oxreiders in 1902, Miss Dawson in 1903, the Colletts with the return of the Griffins in 1904, Miss Bometsch joined us in 1905, and Miss Coe and Miss Gowan, with the Kennans, left Vancouver September 22, 1909. How I should like to take each of these people I have mentioned and speak of them at length and tell you what good people they are, and of the noble lives they are living, and the heroic efforts they are putting forth.

For the sake of those who may wish to refer to facts, I have tabulated the names of all our missionaries from the first, the time of entering the field, and their retirement by death or otherwise, indicating those at present active. In this table I have not mentioned furloughs in America.

Names	Date of Arrival in India
Jeremiah Phillips (died 1879)	1835
Mary Beede Phillips (died 1837)	1835
Mary Gremditch Phillips (died 1840)	1839
Hannah Cummings Phillips (died 1907)	1840
Eli Noyes (retired 1841)	1835



Mrs. Noyes (retired 1841)	1835
Dr. O. R. Bacheler (died 1901)	1840
Mrs. Bacheler (died 1845)	1840
Mrs. Sarah Merrill Bacheler (died 1900)	1846
James C. Dow (retired 1848)	1844
Mrs. James C. Dow (retired 1848)	1844
R. Cooley (retired 1861)	1849
Mrs. R. Cooley (retired 1861)	1849
Lavina Crawford (died 1882)	1852
Burleigh B. Smith (died 1872)	1852
Mrs. Burleigh B. Smith (died 1897)	1852
Henry Covil (retired 1857)	1855
E. C. B. Hallam (retired 1898)	1857
Mrs. Hallam (died at sea 1863)	1857
Mrs. Lydia Hallam (retired 1898)	1866
Arthur Miller (died 1868)	1859
Mrs. Arthur Miller (retired 1868)	1859
Dr. J. L. Phillips (died 1895)	1864
Mrs. J. L. Phillips (retired 1905)	1864
Mrs. Julia Burkholder (retired 1909)	1864
A. J. Marshall (retired 1883)	1873
Mrs. A. J. Marshall (retired 1883)	1873
Mrs. Libbie Cilley Griffin (returned 1909)	1873
Z. F. Griffin (returned 1909)	1883
Mary W. Bacheler (active 1910)	1873
Robert D. Frost (retired 1876)	1874
Richard M. Lawrence (retired 1881)	1874
Susan R. Libby (retired 1876)	1874
Mary E. French (retired 1876)	1874
Ida O. Phillips (died 1889)	1877
T. W. Burkholder (died 1903)	1878
Harriet P. Phillips Stone (retired 1904)	1878
Frankie Millard Lawrence (died 1881)	1878
Jessie B. Hooper (retired 1891)	1878

Milo J. Coldren (retired 1910)	1879
Mrs. Coldren (retired 1910)	1881
Helen M. Phillips (retired 1902)	1881
Miss Millar (retired 1885)	1882
Lavina C. Coombs (active 1910)	1882
F. D. George (retired 1888)	1884
Mrs. F. D. George (died 1889 <sup>5</sup> )	1884
Dr. Harry M. Bacheler (died 1890)	1886
Mrs. Harry Bacheler (retired 1891)	1886
Ella M. Butts (active 1910)	1886
A. B. Boyer (died 1891)	1886
Mrs. Boyer (retired 1894)	1886
Edwin B. Stiles (retired 1898)	1888
Mrs. Stiles (retired 1898)	1888
F. W. Brown (retired 1893)	1889
Mrs. Brown (retired 1893)	1892
George Ager (retired 1903)	1889
Milville C. Miner (retired 1896)	1890
Mrs. Miner (retired 1896)	1890
Miss J. J. Scott (retired 1907)	1893
Herbert E. Wyman (active 1910)	1894
Mrs. Herbert E. Wyman (active 1910)	1894
G. H. Hamlen (active 1910)	1894
Mrs. Hamlen (active 1910)	1894
Emily Barnes (active 1910)	1894
Edna C. Wile (retired 1898)	1894
Miss L. E. Gaunce (retired 1904)	1894
Bebe Phillips (retired 1897)	1894
E. H. Lougher (retired 1908)	1898
Mrs. E. H. Lougher (retired 1908)	1898
Dr. A. L. Kennan (active 1910)	1899
Mrs. A. L. Kennan (active 1910)	1899
H. R. Murphy (active 1910)	1900
Mrs. H. R. Murphy (active 1910)	1900

Dr. Shirley Smith Thompson (retired 1908)	1900
Rev. J. H. Oxreider (active 1910)	1902
Mrs. J. H. Oxreider (active 1910)	1902
Miss Ethel Dawson (retired 1910)	1903
C. A. Collett (active (1910)	1904
Mrs. C. A. Collett (active 1910)	1904
Miss Sadie B. Gowan (active 1910)	1909
Miss R. D. Bonwetsch (active 1910)	1905
Miss Amy Coe (active 1910)	1909